

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY PARTICIPATES IN READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY
Reads "Look Out College, Here I Come" to Pre-Kindergarten and Elementary School Students

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today read to students at Washington Elementary School in Raleigh and Hampton Leadership Academy in Greensboro as part of Read Across America Day. Read Across America is an annual national program, sponsored by the National Education Association, which focuses on reading motivation and awareness.

"Reading is the most important thing children learn in school," said Easley. "Reading opens doors for young people to be successful learners, go to college and thrive in the global economy."

Easley spoke to students at both schools about the importance of reading and going to college before reading his new children's book "*Look Out College, Here I Come*." At Hampton Leadership Academy, he also read "*The Cat In The Hat*" by Dr. Seuss. The Governor answered questions from the students at both schools about writing, reading and going to college.

"When you can read you can go anywhere," Easley told students. "One of the most exciting places you can go is to college. I want each of you to go to college. That is why I wrote a book about how you can get there, called "*Look Out College, Here I Come*."

Read Across America, a month-long celebration, begins each year with Read Across America Day, on the birthday of Dr. Seuss, March 2. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Seuss's "*The Cat In The Hat*," Easley, along with students and educators across the nation, read the 236 word book at 2:36 p.m. today. Students at participating schools receive "*The Cat In The Hat*" books, hats and stickers from a costumed Cat In The Hat who arrives in the NEA sponsored Cat-A-Van.

The National Education Association published Easley's first children's book, "*Look Out College, Here I Come*" last month. As part of the Governor's continued efforts to promote literacy and improve the college going rate in North Carolina, he donated copies of "*Look Out College, Here I Come*" to the libraries of each of the schools he visited.

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